FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 OCTOBER 1985

Aftermath of Achille Lauro Affair

A U.S. apology for the interception of the Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the *Achille Lauro* is expected by "all Egyptians," President Husni Mubarak stated in remarks cited by MENA 14 October. He noted that he had not yet read a message received from President Reagan the previous day because he was still "extremely indignant." Mubarak had criticized the "extremely regrettable" U.S. "act of piracy" during a 12 October press conference reported by MENA, stressing that the U.S. action "deeply wounded" him and makes it impossible to believe there is an ongoing peace process. Justifying his decision to hand the hijackers over to the PLO, Mubarak expressed confidence that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would have brought them to trial, pointing out that this would have given 'Arafat the opportunity to show he is serious in his statements. He also denied that the delay in the hijackers' departure from Egypt 10 October was evidence of Egyptian collusion over the interception of their plane, asserting that Egypt would collude with nobody in carrying out such "stupid" actions. Mubarak said that "technical, political, and administrative difficulties" caused the delay, which he only learned about 3 hours after announcing their departure. While the president "excused" Tunisia for its decision not to revoke landing permission to the plane carrying the hijackers, the Cairo paper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* condemned Tunisia's "incomprehensible collusion" with the United States in a commentary reported by MENA.

The Egyptian aircraft intercepted by U.S. planes returned to Cairo on 13 October, according to MENA. Egyptian students clashed with police during a 12 October demonstration against the U.S. action, AFP noted.

The PLO Executive Committee denounced the U.S. "air piracy operation" in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, calling for the immediate release of the passengers. AFP cited a warning by Yasir 'Arafat to Italian Prime Minister Craxi that the U.S. "piracy" could spark off "uncontrollable reactions." Palestine Liberation Front leader Muhammad 'Abbas, wanted by the U.S. authorities in connection with the *Achille Lauro* affair, flew to Aden 14 October following his 36-hour stopover in Belgrade, a PLO official cited by KUNA disclosed. 'Abbas announced in a Radio Monte Carlo interview that he is ready to go to the United States to explain the hijacking and the Palestine question if President Reagan guarantees his personal safety.

Arab reaction to the U.S. interception of the plane carrying the hijackers included Damascus radio's view that "the Egyptian regime and the 'Arafat gang contributed to the success of the U.S. pirate operation" and Algiers radio's contention that the U.S. Administration is trying to give a legal character to "operations of piracy." A Libyan Foreign Liaison Committee statement broadcast by Tripoli radio also denounced the "act of piracy," while an Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio criticized the "completely unjustified act." Riyadh radio warned that the hijacking of the hijackers is likely to escalate violence and undermine peace efforts.

Reaction to Cancellation of UK-PLO Talks

The British Government has called off a meeting with PLO Executive Committee members Muhammad Milhim and Iliya Khuri, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported quoting Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. Howe justified this decision because of the PLO officials' refusal to "give assurances for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East," the agency added. The PLO office in London said the document which Milhim and Khuri were asked to sign was a new version of the text which had been agreed on, KUNA noted. The PLO interprets a paragraph in the statement as recognition of Israel's right to exist, KUNA added. Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation went to London to explain the PLO-Jordanian agreement and not to sign any statement, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

However, a Jordanian official spokesman cited by Amman radio said the meeting was cancelled because "one of the two Palestinian members of the joint delegation regrettably expressed his unwillingness to agree on the statement according to the formula that was earlier agreed."

In other Arab reaction, Damascus radio viewed the cancellation of the talks as "another slap in the face of those who are dreaming of separate solutions," while Riyadh radio said the meeting would only have produced "minor gains" had it occurred. The Israeli Foreign Ministry expressed "satisfaction" with the cancellation of the meeting in a statement issued by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in Jerusalem.

Israeli Relations With Jordan, Egypt

During his forthcoming visit to the United States, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will try to examine the possibility of implementing an "interim stage" in a settlement between Israel and Jordan without the PLO's participation, Jerusalem television reported. Noting that this could be linked to the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy plan, the television said Peres will attempt to gauge U.S. interest in such a move. On relations with Egypt, Peres told the Cabinet that he has received a message from President Mubarak expressing Egypt's concern over the recent murder of Israelis in the Sinai and promising to present all the facts connected with the incident. Nevertheless, Peres is temporarily freezing plans for a summit meeting with Mubarak, according to *HADASHOT*.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi naval units attacked Iran's "extremely important" Bahrgan oil field 12 October, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced. Iraq's naval commander said all of the oil field's facilities were set on fire and destroyed, INA reported, and he added that Bahrgan is one of the most important Iranian oil fields because it contains a principal pumping station which pumps oil to reservoirs on the Iranian coast. In other war developments, Iraqi planes raided Khark Island 11 and 14 October and hit "large" maritime targets near the Iranian coast 12,13, and 15 October, according to military announcements carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

The war has been militarily decided in Iraq's favor, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah claimed in remarks to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* cited by INA. He said between 700,000 and 1 million Iranians have been killed and 3 million wounded in the war and the Iranian situation is "rapidly deteriorating."

Meanwhile, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati returned from a tour of the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain during which he delivered messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i and warned that Iran will continue to inspect cargo ships in the Gulf suspected of carrying military hardware to Iraq, IRNA disclosed.

Sources cited by Tehran radio claimed there was an assassination attempt on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Ba'qubah 5 October during which five of the president's bodyguards were killed.

Iran

The Majlis gave a vote of confidence to Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to take office for a second term, IRNA reported, noting that the tally was 162 for, 73 against, and 26 abstentions.

Libya-USSR

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concluded an "official and friendly" visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signed a long-term program for developing economic, scientific, technical, and trade cooperation between the two countries, according to a Libyan-Soviet statement transmitted by JANA. The statement said a protocol on political consultations and a consular agreement were also signed. Both sides showed readiness to exert constructive efforts to consolidate peace, security, and cooperation in a way that serves both their peoples, the statement said. Earlier, sources cited by KUNA said Al-Qadhdhafi's basic goal during the visit was to expedite delivery of Soviet advanced weaponry, including naval vessels, planes, and radar equipment.

Sudan

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces shot down a Sudanese Air Force F-5 jet fighter 13 October east of Bor, theclandestine radio SPLA disclosed, adding that the two pilots aboard the aircraft were killed in the attack. Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah confirmed that an aircraft was "lost" while on an official mission, SUNA reported. The agency also announced that all 34 political prisoners from the southern region were released, including three former governors.

Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah left Cairo after holding talks on bilateral relations with Egyptian President Mubarak and Prime Minister 'ali Lutfi, MENA reported. Meanwhile, sources cited by SUNA claimed that Mubarak recently met with an SPLA delegation and stressed the need to stop the fighting and start a dialogue with all Sudanese political forces.

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad organization "confirmed" its execution of William Buckley in a statement published by *AL-NAHAR* 12 October, asserting that the U.S. "spy" was executed in retaliation for the Israeli raid on Tunisia. The Jihad group will put Buckley's body at the disposal of the UN secretary general if Israel releases 100 Palestinian detainees, the statement added. As for the fate of the three Soviet hostages in Lebanon, a caller to Beirut radio denied Voice of Lebanon Radio reports that the Jihad organization was threatening to execute them.

Beirut radio reported that an IDF tank force entered the southern village of Arnun 14 October.

DRA-Pakistan

Afghanistan favors "normal and even friendly" relations with Pakistan, DRA President Babrak Karmal said in an interview with the Pakistani paper *THE MUSLIM* cited by BAKHTAR. While the BAKHTAR report quoted Karmal as saying the majority of Pakistanis favor a political solution to the conflict between Soviet-DRA forces and rebels through direct negotiations, an AFP account of the interview said Karmal actually called for direct talks with Pakistan. Karmal added that Soviet troops in Afghanistan will withdraw "as soon as possible" if external intervention in Afghan affairs ceases, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Foreign Office summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and rejected a DRA protest that Pakistani forces shelled Barikowt 1-4 October, resulting in 25 casualties, Karachi radio announced.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq has postponed his trip to the FRG because of "domestic preoccupations," Karachi radio reported 14 October.

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'Text' of BAKHTAR Statement on U.S. Undeclared War

LD130912 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0540 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Kabul, October 12, BAKHTAR: Following is the full text of a statement issued by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY:

Seven years hence the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism led by the US imperialism continues against the DRA and attains ever wider scope.

The alloted budget, the documents and evidences and the confessions of the terrorists and bandits and the CIA agents are undeniably testifying to the fact that Washington has launched one of its most expensive destructive operations against the DRA after the Vietnam war.

In continuation of disclosing the inhuman measures of Washington Administration, the Western Media reported that Washington Administration has lately taken another step for getting another 300 million dollars approved by the US Congress to be used against the revolution of Afghanistan. Of course, this is not the only sum which Washington Administration has earmarked to the Afghan counter-revolution for the continuation of their terrorist activities and for the advancing the imperialist undeclared war.

CIA which is in charge of the undeclared war against the DRA is spending about one hundred million dollars in arming the criminal counter-revolutionary bandits as well as for exporting murder and destruction.

In addition to 280 million dollars which was earlier allocated in 1985 by Washington Administration to the Afghan counterrevolution, in August 1985, the US Senate permitted the White House to spend another 250 million dollars for equippping, training and arming the Afghan counter-revolution stationed in Pakistan. Another 600 million dollars have already been allocated for the same purpose for the new fiscal year beginning from the first October 1985.

Likewise, Washington Administration under the order of Ronald Reagan, White House ruler, has opened a special account at a capital of 20 million dollars for helping the Afghan counter-revolution. Thus, the aid given by Washington Administration to the Afghan counter-revolutionary bandits amounting at one and a half billion dollars.

The Reagan administration in addition to the undeclared war has also intensified its psychological war against the DRA. Some time ago, it allocated 500 thousand dollars for the training of propagandists in the undeclared war against the country.

All these dollars are being spent for the carrying out of murders, prevention of revolutionary transformations and the suppression of revolutionary gains in the country.

The basic objective behind Reagan's policy is to change Pakistan to a base of training war mercenaries and to take advantage of it as an aggressive imperialist springboard of aggression against revolutionary Afghanistan and the peoples of the region. It commits such actions in order to fan up tension in the region and to suppress the national liberation movements by using the Pakistani military regime.

Any clean conscience and solemn human wisdom now firmly believe that the hue and cry of propaganda machinery of the US imperialism on the so-called defending the human rights and democracy are in explicit contradiction with the ignominious deeds of Washington administration at international level.

Such kind of deeds not only are contrary to the international laws and that of human traditions but run counter to the decrees of Koran, the holy book of Muslims as well as to the Islamic principles.

The confessions made by the two agents, recruited by the USA and britain espionage networks, who were closely linked with the CIA spies, British woman Isabel Wood and American John Friederickson, are the most fresh evidences disclosing the real faces of the false propagandists of freedom and the human rights.

The people of Afghanistan, who have scored great victories in the political and economic spheres, manifested their national will through the National Grand assembly and the High council of frontier tribes on the decisive defence of their motherland against the imperialist undeclared war.

The years of jubilant revolutionary work in the political, social and economic spheres and confrontation with imperialist aggressions showed that no evident bribery to the counterrevolution can prevent the revolutionary Afghanistan from the pursuit of development and social progress.

FRG Charge Handed Protest over Radio Broadcasts

LD121947 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Oct 85

["Protest note" presented to the charge d'affaires of the FRG Embassy at the Minsitry of Foreign Affairs by the director of the Fifth Political Department on "Radio Free Afghanistan" broadcasting from FRG territory; date not specified — read by announcer]

[Text] As has been heard in the broadcasts of the FRG mass media and some other countries in the continuation of the broad intervention and provocation of the enemies of the revolution and the people of Afghanistan, another propaganda war against the DRA was recently put into operation with the beginning of the activities of a radio station — the so-called Liberty and Free Europe in FRG territory.

This radio, which has been set up in the environs of Munich at the initiative of the U.S. administration, most of all is a means for implementing Washington-Bonn international psychological warfare against the DRA, a peace-loving country. It has been organized to distort facts about the national and democratic April Revolution in the DRA, as well as to [word indistinct] the world's public opinion on one hand, and on the other to encourage and assist the subversive deeds of the sold-out mercenaries of the counterrevolutionaries.

The setting up of the broadcast council of the so-called Free Afghanistan, which is as another new ring in the black chain of the hostile activities against the DRA and its international friends, demonstrates the bad intentions of the imperialist warmongering circles and conservatives in intensifying the undeclared war against the DRA. Parallel to this, it intensifies tension and prevents a durable peace in the region and in the world.

Despite notifications and repeated protests of the DRA Government in this respect, not only have the intervention and provocations of the FRG authorities against the DRA not ended, but have unfortunately taken broader dimensions. This has aroused the profound repulsion of the DRA Government and people.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounces the active and conscious role of the FRG authorities in setting up and preparing the preliminary steps for such unfriendly actions and hostile propaganda in that country against the DRA, and expresses its strong protest in this regard.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that the continuation of such unfriendly activities by the FRG authorities will affect normal relations between the two countries and therefore demands that such activities should end as soon as possible. If not, the negative consequences of these actions will rest on the authorities of that country.

BAKHTAR Reports Karmal Interview With Pakistan Paper

LD130745 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0535 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Kabul, October 12, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, received Mushahid Hussain Sayed, editor-in-chief of daily *THE MUSLIM*, printed in Islamabad, for granting him a press conference at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Answering the questions Babrak Karmal said that "In our view, achieving a political solution is something possible. And what can exactly help this end is good-will, political will and sincerity. So far as it concerns us, I would like to once again assure the people of Pakistan that we are in favour of having normal and even friendly relations with pakistan and other neighbours on the basis of the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, respecting the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, good neighbourliness and mutual beneficial cooperation."

"So far as our information is concerned, Babrak Karmal went on to say, the majority of the people in Pakistan are decisively in favour of the political solution of the issues through direct negotiations, and are convinced of the sincerity of the DRA.

On the other hand, it should be mentioned that it is the Government of Pakistan, the USA, China and their allies who are hindering the political solution by continuing and intensifying interferences in the internal affairs of the DRA.

"The facts clearly show that, it is the army and militias of Pakistan which have repeatedly launched and are launching offenses and aggressions on the territory of the DRA.

The military ruling circles of Pakistan, despite the unshakable will and determination of the people of Pakistan, only for their ominous interest are continuously fanning tension in the relation between our countries. But we are fully confident that either sooner or later these circles will be forced to surrender to the strong will of the fraternal people of Pakistan in regard with the normalization of the relations with the DRA.

On the contrary, the DRA has not spared any efforts for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. It was exactly Afghanistan which issuing the statements of May 14, 1980 and August 24, 1981 which [as received] took first steps towards a political solution and tabled concrete proposals towards the end. In the course of talks it has been also Afghanistan which has put forward specific proposals [word indistinct] necessary flexibility for the progress of talks."

Speaking about the presence in the DRA [of] the Soviet limited military contingents Babrak Karmal reminded that "the invitation of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union to the DRA took place as a result of the armed encroachments and other kinds of interferences carried out in the internal affairs of the DRA. These encroachments are the real cause of the present tense situation prevailing around Afghanistan. When the cause is removed, the ground will be paved for the removal of its effects as well. The Government of the DRA has repeatedly declared that whenever the interventions are stopped and guarantees are provided for their non-recurrence, then the DRA will initiate negotiation with the Government of the Soviet Union on the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union."

Answering another question, Babrak Karmal said: "The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, manifesting the genuine interest of the absolute majority of the Afghan people even prior to the revolution, was enjoying sufficient popularity among the people. Making use of various forms of struggle during the monarchical reaction, the PDPA had also representatives in the parliament, who were always defending people's rights.

The source of our strength lies in the determination of our people and our struggle for safeguarding their lofty interests."

Concerning the rumours of the so-called increase in the number of the "migrants", Babrak Karmal stated that "This is also one of the falsifications constituting the core of imperialist propaganda, which is aimed at creating apprehension, fear and intimidation among the deceived Afghans. On the contrary, the facts and figures indicate that availing themselves of the general amnesty decree of the presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, the deceiveds [as received] are continuously returning to their revolutionary country".

Karmal Greets Kim Il-song on WPK Anniversary
LD150610 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Kabul, October 10, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has sent a message to Korean People's Democratic Republic (DPRK) congratulating Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of Korean Workers Party on the fourtieth anniversary of the founding of KWP.

The message adds that the PDPA and the people of Afghanistan have always given their support to the righteous and just struggles of the Korean people in repulsing the interventions of U.S. imperialism and to the unification of Korea.

The peoples of the DRA and DPRK are valorously struggling in a united front campaigning against imperialism, reaction and its regional allies.

The existing comradely relations, the message stresses, between the parties and states of the two countries are in the interests of the people of both the countries which have been struggling against imperialism and reaction and for the cause of peace and progress.

Confidence is expressed in the message that relations will be further expanded between the two countries.

Politburo Member Nur Meets With CPI Delegation
LD150806 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0542 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Kabul, October 14, BAKHTAR — Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo of the PDPA CC and secretary of the PDPA CC met here today with a delegation of the Communist Party of India headed by Raj Bahadur Gohr, a member of the Executive Committee of National Council of the Communist Party and secretary of all India Workers Union.

During the meeting Nur Ahmad Nur discussed with the delegation the brazen and overt intereference of reaction and US imperialism in the internal affairs of the DRA.

He pointed to the spectacular successes of the Armed Forces of the country in crushing of the exported counter-revolution.

Nur ahmad Nur pointed to the strengthening of relations between the two parties and the traditional friendship ties between the two countries aimed at consolidation of peace and security in the region.

Raj Bahadur Gohr spoke about the mutual relations and expressed confidence that the Communist Party of India will strive for the expanding of friendly relations between the two parties.

He added that the Communist Farty of India decisively supports the gains of the revolution of the people of the DRA.

Pakistani Shelling of Barikowt Protested
LD131641 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy to Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning and the following points were conveyed to him by the head of the First Political Department:

On 9, 10, 11, and 12 of Mezan 1364, which corresponds to 1, 2, 3, and 4 October 1985, the residential area of Barikowt, Konar Province was subjected to heavy artillery fire such as [word indistinct], recoilless guns and mortars by the Pakistani military forces. As a result of this savage fire, 14 residents of that area were martyed and 11 were wounded.

The DRA Government condemned this aggression of the Pakistan military regime and protested strongly because of it. In addition to this, it says that the Pakistan military regime should immediately end this aggression which takes the life and wealth of the people and aggravates the situation on the borders, or the responsibility of its heavy and dangerous consequences will rest with Pakistan military regime.

SPA: Mujahidin Destroy USSR Gas Pipeline Link
GF111509 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] London, 11 Oct (SPA) — Engineer Gulboddin Hekmatiar, leader of the Afghan resistance movement and the spokesman for the Islamic alliance of the Afghan Mujahidin, has called on world peace-loving peoples to reassess their relations with the Soviet Union.

In a statement he issued today in Peshawar, he said that all the world countries have to firmly support the Afghan resistance against the Soviet occupation. He also revealed the terrorist and bestial activities being perpetrated against the unarmed Afghan people. Hekmatiar stressed the rights of the mujahidin, who acquire the support of all Afghan people, to represent Afghanistan at the United Nations.

As for the resistance operations, the leader of the Afghan resistance movement stressed that the Afghan mujahidin succeeded on 25 September in destroying the natural gas pipeline to the Soviet Union, burning down a number of gas stations that provide services to the Soviets in Jowzjan Province.

Exchange of Fire With Pakistani Forces Reported

BK130310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] In the Punch sector of Jammu and Kashmir, an exchange of fire took place between Indian and Pakistani forces on the night of 10th and 11th of this month. It continued for 4 hours but there was no casualty. The deputy commissioner of Punch told our Jammu correspondent this morning that intermittent exchange of fire between the two sides has been going on for the last 1 month, particularly in the (Bagial) and (Dagwar) areas of the sector.

Gandhi on Pakistani Bomb; U.S.; Other Topics

BK111156 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said while India had lived with the Chinese atom bomb, and decided not to have nuclear weapons, it would have to think much more deeply if Pakistan develops such a bomb. In an interview to *LONDON TIMES* published today, he said the nuclear weapon Pakistan is developing is not financed just by that country but by others as well. Once the weapon is available, will these people get the weapon, and how many countries will get the weapon, Mr Gandhi asked. The dangers of a nuclear weapon being developed in Pakistan are not just the (?dangers) that we have to face. It will be something the whole world will have to address itself to, he added. Mr Rajiv Gandhi described Pakistan as a very difficult customer and said President Zia's actions are contrary to what he says. There is a lot of similarity in the long-term perspectives of India and Pakistan for the region, and there is a lot that we can build on.

Mr Gandhi also said that Britain will be isolated in the forthcoming Commonwealth conference because of its opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa. Even the United States is coming around to sanctions, he said.

On India's relations with the Soviet Union, Mr Gandhi said they have been definitely strengthened. Similarly there has been a transformation of our relationships with the United States. We are working together in certain areas, he added.

More on Gandhi Concern

BK140425 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] In an interview to the American magazine *TIME*, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India is worried over Pakistan developing a capability to wage chemical and nuclear warfare. He said India's decision not to build a bomb remains, but the decision is not irrevocable. In another interview given to the inaugural issue of the Hindi magazine *GANGA*, Mr Gandhi said he is not convinced by Pakistan's assertions that it has no plans to make a nuclear bomb.

Gandhi Calls for Defense Services Coordination

BK101623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called upon the Indian Navy to be prepared to meet any threat in view of the increasing big-power presence in the Indian Ocean and the expansion of navies of the neighboring countries.

Inaugurating the annual conference of senior naval officers in New Delhi today, he expressed the need for greater coordination between three defense services to ward off any threat to the country's land and sea borders. The prime minister emphasized the need for organizing more joint exercises by the three services under a united command to promote coordination among them.

The prime minister called for a long-term prospective, which would take into consideration all the vital aspects of a security environment. Mr Gandhi said the Indian Navy should grow even faster in view of the developments in the Indian Ocean. He laid special emphasis on training methodology to improve the standard and efficiency of the services. He said the training should aim at building up character and raising morale, which are vital for the defense forces.

Earlier, the chief of the naval staff, Admiral Tahiliyani, said that the Indian Navy has to be strengthened to meet the challenges. He said the country's capacity to produce more ships with sophisticated technology is being increased. A new naval base is being set up at Karwar on the west coast.

The 2-day conference was attended among others by the ministers of state for defense, Mr Arun S[illegible]h and Mr Sikh Ram; the chief of the Army staff, General Vaidya; and the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshalla Fontaine attended the meeting for the first time.

Strengthening Navy Urged

BK120738 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister has said that the role of the navy has to be reevaluated in the context of the changing security environment. He was addressing the consultative committee of members of parliament attached to the Ministry of Defense in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Gandhi said much more attention should be paid to our coastline which constitutes two-thirds of the country's border. The entire session of the consultative committee was devoted to discuss various aspects of the Indian Navy.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi pointed out that there is a need to work out a perspective [as heard] plan after clearly assessing the role that the Indian Navy is expected to play. The navy is not only to guard the coastline but also to play its legitimate role in the Indian Ocean.

Speaking on the need for an additional carrier for the navy, the prime minister said such a platform is essential if the country needs a strategic force.

The minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, referred to the suggestion by some members to increase the naval budget and said the allocation has to be linked with threat perception and measures to counter it.

Gandhi Calls for Security for Indians in UK

BK120932 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has urged the British Government to provide security to people of Indian origin living there. In an interview to BBC television last night, Mr Gandhi expressed concern over the recent riots in Britain in which people of Indian origin were among those who suffered. He said British authorities should ensure equal opportunity and security for them. Mr Gandhi pointed out that these people have relations in India and, therefore, we have a certain responsibility toward them. The British Government does not seem to take responsibility even for British passport holders who are not of British origin.

On South Africa, Mr Rajiv Gandhi came out strongly in favor of sanctions against the (?racist) Pretoria regime.

On Sri Lanka, the prime minister said the major hurdle was the enforcement of cease-fire because there were violations from both sides. Tamils are feeling insecure and felt that security forces cannot be relied upon to adhere to what is agreed between the government and varios Tamil groups. Mr Gandhi was confident that President Jayewardene wanted a nonmilitary solution to the ethnic problem.

The prime minister hailed the outcme of the Punjab elections as a vote for democracy and the accord he had signed with Sant Longowal. It is his responsibility as the prime minister to see that whichever party is democratically elected is allowed to function with full freedom within the Constitution, he added.

Radio Reports Gandhi 11 Oct Press Conference

BK120923 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1445 GMT 11 Oct 85

["Special Newsreel" on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 11 October address to the Press Club of India in New Delhi — passages in quote marks recorded]

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, addressed his first news conference at the Press Club of India in New Delhi today. At the luncheon question-hour session, Mr Rajiv Gandhi answered over 50 questions covering a wide range of subjects on international, national, defense, and economic matters. The main hall of the Press Club of India was jam-packed with the Indian journalists and a few foreign correspondents as the prime minister came to adress them. A number of questions were asked on Pakistan's nuclear weapon program. One of the questions was:

[Unidentified questioner] "You had stated that in case Pakistan explodes a nuclear bomb, India will have an adequate response. Would you spell out what this response will be?"

[Answer] "I think that it is fairly well established that Pakistan does have a nuclear program, a nuclear weapon program, and this is causing us problems. It is difficult to say in exactly what stage of development that program is and how far into that program they are. Our information is that they are fairly advanced, which does raise the question of what is India going to do. As I have said on a number of occasions, we have to consider our security, and there is no question of allowing New Delhi, or for that matter, any other city in India to be flattened out. We will not allow that to happen. What is even more worrying about Pakistan's program is that we are fairly sure that at least parts of the finances for this program have come from other countries. Now, what we worry about is that the nuclear weapon when developed, will also have to go to these countries, and that is a much more sobering (?thouhgt)."

In reply to a question in Hindi, Mr Rajiv Gandhi categorically denied that India is making a hydrogen bomb. [Gandhi In Hindi] "No, we are not making a hydrogen bomb. We don't have such a program."

The first 20 minutes of over an hour-long news conference was spent on questions of Indo-Pakistan relations. Answering a question from a journalist for a Pakistani newspaper on steps to normalize relations between the two countries, the prime minister said: "We are willing to go to any extent to normalize relations between India and Pakistan. We made this very clear during the joint commission meeting earlier this year in Delhi. We are willing to go to any extent. The limitations were laid by Pakistan, not by India. And we are still willing to go further in any area that they are willing to go. The two points that you have mentioned — Pakistan's interference in Punjab and the nuclear weapon program — it is not my raising it that soured relations. It's fact that is happening that soured relation. And it is by raising it, we hope that they will refrain from this program, and it will, in fact, improve relations between our countries."

Replying to a supplementary to the main question, Mr Gandhi said: "Regarding a mutual agreement [on nuclear safeguards] between Pakistan and India, it is a very complicated question. The first part is that our entire nuclear program is in the civilian area; there is no military nuclear program. It is open to questions in Parliament; it is open to discussion in the press. Basically, it is visible to everyone. The reason why we don't want to go for inspection is because we feel that the material, the experiment that would be involved, will not be in the areas where they will allow us to inspect. They will already have moved to inaccessible areas, to military areas which they will not allow us to inspect and, if the certain quantity of enriched uranium or other material is already available with them, there is no reason why they should have that available in an area where they will allow us to inspect it. They will have that somewhere else and we will be inspecting something else which is not going to give us satisfaction that we have seen that they have no program. And while not satisfying us that they are not having a program, it will also give satisfaction to other countries in the world that there is nothing between the two of us. This is not a question which is the problem, and various aid and other measures which could be used as pressure would not be used as pressure."

The prime minister was asked another sharp question on Pakistan.

[Unideftified questioner] "Mr prime minister, India has always said that Pakistan is training Sikh terrorists, and Pakistan categorically denied the charge always. What proof do you have for your allegations?"
[Answer] "We have interviews with the people who have been trained in Pakistan."

[Question] "You have also been expressing fears about Pakistan developing a bomb and India's need to make one if they had one."
[Answer] "That is not what I said [words indistinct]."

[Question] "What is the basis of your suspicion? Is it merely press reports?"
[Answer] "No. It's much more than press reports, and there is the circumstantial evidence. There is other evidence which leads us to believe that they are fairly advanced in this program."

A question came up on the ethnic problems in Sri Lanka.

[Unidentified Questioner] "If and when the Tamil guerrilla groups in Sri Lanka announce the formation of an independent Eelam state, will the Government of India recognize it?"
[Answer] "But, they have not announced it, so the question does not really arise. And we are, like I had said on a number of occasions, not for an independent Eelam state in Sri Lanka. We are for a solution entirely within the Constitution of Sri Lanka between the two parties — the government and the Tamils of Sri Lanka -- and anything we can do to help in that, we are willing to do."

[Question] "Mr Prime Minister, can I ask a supplementary on this? The talks with the Tamil leaders have gone on in Delhi for quite some time and sometimes we hear one side is adamant, the other side is. Where does this negotiation stand today in your view and what are the prospects of bringing Sri Lanka and Tamil leaders to negotiating table?"
[Answere] "Well, we have made a major achievement in these negotiations last night. There had been common agreement for the monitoring of the cease-fire and the actions of various groups — whether security or Tamils in Sri Lanka. I think this is a very major step forward, because no matter what other agreement is to come about, if there is no confidence in the cease-fire, then it will be impossible to implement that agreement. And this was one of the key factors that we have stressed that we wanted before we really go forward because without this nothing else will hold, and with this now we can look forward to getting on with talkings about specifics and seeing how quickly progress will be made."

On the progress of Indo-Bangladesh relations, the prime minister said: "We made tremendous progress on the [sharing of river] waters. I spoke to President Ershad when I was in Bangladesh, and after that I sent Shiv Shankar Ji [prime minister's special emissary — FBIS] and we got some basic ideas on which to work. ("We received a) note back after that from Bangladesh; we have discussed it. There are some questions that we have raised, and it is in the process of discussion at the moment. It is not stuck, and it's not bogged down. I think the movement is positive on that. Of course, we would have liked it to be faster, but it is still positive, and that is good. We are also constructing some villages in Urirchar, where I had gone, as a relief measure to help the people of that area."

[Question] "May I also ask about the coming SAARC summit. Do you think the first ever meeting among the seven South Asian leaders would bring about an era of emity, understanding, and fellow feelings in the region? How do you visualize the prospects of SAARC as an effective instrument of regional cooperation and friendship in South Asia?"
[Answer] "SAARC is going to go a long way in reducing tensions and increasing cooperation in South Asia. Already we have seen an attitude of being able to talk to each other about our problems. We find it very easy to just pick up the phone; telephone President Ershad, President Zia, President Jayewardene or anyone else and say this is the problem, let us try and sort it out. This has happened on more than one occasion, on occasions that have happened when two or three of us have got together, trying to convince a third member about such an action that they were likely to take. So this is, (?I think) it is already working. It is only a question of formalizing it, making it stronger and much more cohesive. and this i am sure will happen in Dhaka in December."

Further Report

BK111400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that India will not put up with nuclear blackmail from any quarter. He said Pakistan's nuclear weapons program is posing a problem to India. Addressing a crowded news conference at the Press Club of India in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said our information is that Pakistan is fairly advanced in its efforts to produce a nuclear bomb. India has to consider its security, and there is no question of allowing New Delhi or any other city in the country becoming another Hiroshima or Nagasaki. He said the question of Pakistan going nuclear might figure in his talks with President Ziaul Haq during their meeting in New York this month. During his hour-long press conference, the prime minister answered a wide range of questions on international and national affairs.

Replying to question, Mr Gandhi categorically denied that India is making a hydrogen bomb. He said there is a bigger danger now of Pakistan giving the bomb to the countries financing its nuclear project. He reiterated that India is prepared to go to any extent to normalize relations with Pakistan, but he regretted that limitations in this regard have been placed by Pakistan. He expressed the hope that Pakistan would refrain from involvement in Punjab and help improve relations between the two countries.

Replying to a question on surplus food, Mr Gandhi said India has decided against exporting its surplus wheat at prices lower than the cost price. The government would first think in terms of meeting the nutritional needs of the weaker section before deciding on exports.

On Sri Lanka, he said India stands for a negotiated settlement of the ethnic problem between the government and the concerned parties.

On Afghanistan, Mr Gandhi said we would like to see a non-aligned Afghanistan without outside interference.

Gandhi Says Hijacking Points to Palestinian Issue

BK131559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner and the ship calls for an urgent tackling of the Palestinian problem. He told PTI that it only shows the volatile situation there. India supports the Palestinian cause and will continue to do so, he said.

Delhi Reports UK Police Foil Plot To Assassinate Gandhi

BK120850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Agency reports from London say that British police have arrested 15 people in a coordinated swoop at different places and foiled a plot to assassinate the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit to Britain next week. Those arrested include four top functionaries of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and six Sikhs. Details are awaited.

Gandhi Leaves for UK, Comments on Trip, Hijacking

BK140345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The prime minsiter, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was given a big send-off when he left New Delhi this morning for London on the first leg of his 5-nation tour. The 12-day official visit will take him to Britain, the Bahamas, Cuba, New York, and the Netherlands. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by his cabinet colleagues, members of parliament, and top military and civil officials. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is accomapnied by Mrs Sonia Gandhi. A high-level delegation of ministers and officials is also accompanying him. They include the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat; the minister of state for fertilizers, Mr Natwar Singh; and the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari.

Talking to newsmen at the airport before boarding the Air India jumbo jet Trishul, the prime minister said that mostly bilateral issues will figure during his talks with the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in London. He said international issues will come up for discussions at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting at Nassau in the Bahamas.

When asked to comment on the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner and the Italian ship, the prime minister said India is against all sorts of terrorism, whether individual or state. Replying to a query on his proposed meeting with President Reagan, Mr Gandhi said that he will be meeting him at a reception hosted by President Reagan in New York.

Mr Gandhi is scheduled to have two round of talks with the British prime minister Mrs Thatcher during his stay in London. The prime minister will then proceed to the Bahamas to take part in the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government. After a 5-day stay in the Bahamas, Mr Gandhi will go to Havana for a brief visit. This will be the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Cuba. From Havana the prime minister will go to New York where he will address the 40th commemorative session of the Untied Nations. He is also likely to have meetings with a number of visiting heads of state and government in New York. Before returning home on the 26th, the prime minister will make a short visit to Holland.

Further Reportage

For subsequent reportage on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's arrival in the United Kingdom and coverage of the visit, see the United Kingdom section of the 15 October Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Delhi Cites Ziaul Haq Remarks on Nuclear Technology

BK141605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] The Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, has confirmed that his country has successfully acquired the technology for the enrichment of uranium. In an interview to a Kerala English weekly, General Zia said that his country has the capability to transform a peaceful nuclear program into a nonpeaceful one at any time. He said Paksitan should have a completely self-sufficient nuclear fuel cycle, of which enriched uranium is an essential component. He said Pakistan will require about 20 nuclear reactors by the end of the century.

Replying to questions, General Zia said one of the biggest stumbling block's in India-Pakistan relations is the mistrust and apprehensions that each country has about the other. He said whether Pakistan has a nuclear program and whether it is peaceful or not is not relevent to our relationship at this stage.

Indian Marxist Delegation Arrives in Vietnam

For Hanio VNA coverage of a Communist Party of India-Marxist delegation's visit to Vietnam, see the Vietnam section of the 15 October *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Ziaul Haq Postpones 16-19 Oct Trip to FRG

BK141534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has postponed his state visit to the FRG due to domestic preoccupations. He was scheduled to undertake the trip from 16 to 19 of this month. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will visit the FRG at his earliest opportune time, and the new date of the visit will be fixed mutually. During his visit, the president will exchange views on matters of mutual interest with FRG leaders, and close cooperation and the cordial relationship between the two countries will be promoted during the occasion.

Kabul's 13 Oct Protest on Shooting Rejected

BK141603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Paksitan has rejected the Kabul administration's protest lodged yesterday alleging shelling from the Paksitani side on the Barikowt area of Afghanistan's Konar Valley 1-4 October, resulting in 14 persons dead and 11 injured. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and informed of Pakistan's rejection of the protest. He was asked to tell his authorities to refrain from leveling such baseless and mischievous allegations.

Noorani Briefs National Assembly on Border Clashes

BK131640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpts] The National Assembly, while continuing the second reading of the Constitution Eighth Amendment Bill, this afternoon rejected two amendments in Clause 5 of the bill. Five more members spoke on the amendments this afternoon and stressed the deletion of Clause 5 of the bill.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, speaking on some identical adjournment motions concerning incidents along the Jammu and Kashmir and northern areas' Line of Control, said that Pakistan's Armed Forces are always alert to defend every inch of Paksitan's territory from Indian force' sniping attacks. Giving details of these incidents, he said that an armed Indian patrol crossed over the Line of Control into the Pakistani territory in the (Siali) sector of the northern area and shot at Pakistani forces without provocation. The Pakistani soldiers displayed [words indistinct] and faced the challenge by disciplined and defensive action. Three Indian soldiers were killed, and the remaining ones fled. Our soldiers collected the bodies of the Indian soldiers and identified one of them, who was a corporal of the [word indistinct] commando parabattalion named (Khatana). The state minister for foreign affairs said that the local Pakistani Army commander immediately lodged a protest against this serious, unprovoked violation. He said that the Pakistani commander returned the bodies of the Indian soldiers.

Noorani on Indian Criticizism of Nuclear Program

BK121109 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, stated in the National Assembly today that the purpose of India's propaganda against Pakistan's modest and peaceful nuclear program is to malign Pakistan and to divert attention from its own program which is not only massive in size but open to doubt about its professed peaceful intent. Speaking on an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, he said India has accumulated a substantial stockpile of plutonium. The Indian prime minister has admitted that India could make nuclear bomb in months or weeks. India was keeping its option open as stated by its former external affairs minister. Mr Zain Noorani said any objective observer can see that it is India which poses a real threat to nonproliferation in South Asia. The president of Pakistan, he pointed out, has time and again stated in clear terms that our nuclear program is modest and experimental and designed to meet the energy requirement of the country. He has made it clear that Pakistan does not have any atomic bomb and has no intention of making one. The mover did not press his adjournment motion. Allama Abdul Mustufa Al-Azhari, Allama Shah Iradul Haq Qadri, Mr Mohammad Usman Khan Noori, and Haji Mohammad Asghar did not press their adjournment motions.

Following the statement by the minister of state for foreign affairs that the news reports about the former U.S. President Mr Nixon having expressed America's concern regarding Pakistan's nuclear program during his visit to this country, was totally incorrect [sentence as heard]. On the contrary, he said, former President Nixon had held an assurance that in his opinion the United States would not oppose Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program.

Radio Cites PRC Rejection of Bomb Aid Report

BK130302 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry has rejected an American columnist's allegation that China has helped Pakistan manufacture atomic weapons as totally false and fictitious. The spokesman said China's stand is absolutely clear in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. He said China has not assisted any country in manufacturing atomic weapons.

Minister on Kabul's Arming of Pakistani Tribals

GF131958 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Oct 85 p 1

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 9: Syed Qasim Shah, minister of state and frontier regions, told the National Assembly on Wednesday that the arming of tribesmen with modern weapons by Afghanistan was a serious matter.

Speaking on an adjournment motion moved by Sheikh Rashid Ahmad (Rawalpindi), the minister said that the aim of arming the tribesmen and distributing monetary benefits was to endanger the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan.

In his adjournment motion, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed had pointed out, with reference to press reports, that Afghanistan had embarked on a scheme to perpetuate its nefarious designs in our tribal areas and to win over our tribesmen to their cause through the distribution of heavy sums of money and large quantities of arms and ammunition.

He further said that headquarters had been established in Jalalabad, where absconding Pakistani tribal Sardar Malik Wali Khan Kukikhel's supporters go to meet the governor of Jalalabad. Each tribesman was paid Rs. 10,000 and gifted a Kalashnikov rifle, and so far 4000 rifles had been distributed.

The minister informed the house of the position reported by the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Government. He said that according to the provincial government, Afghan authorities were providing arms to hostile Pakistani tribesmen in order to gain a foothold in our sensitive border areas, as well as to promote dissatisfaction among the tribesmen.

At the same time, some pro-Afghan tribals had been visiting Afghanistan and returning with money, arms and ammunition. The aim of these visits was obvious and in line with the subversive objectives of the Afghan Government. Our own political authorities, however, both at the federal and provincial levels, were fully alive to the situation and were taking all necessary steps to deal effectively with these nefarious actions of the Afghan Government.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Departs for Bahamas Commonwealth Meeting

BK130332 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpts] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad left Dhaka last night for the Bahamas to attend the eight Commonwealth summit meeting. The weeklong eighth biennial Commonwealth heads of state and government meeting begins in the Bahamas capital, Nassau, on Wednesday. Begum Raushan Ershad accompanied the president. The president was seen off at the airport by the CCMLA's [Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrators], Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad and Air Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud, cabinet ministers and high civil and military officials.

From Nassau, the president will go to New York on the 22d of this month to attend the 40th commemorative session of the United Nations. He will address the General Assembly. President Ershad will also meet many world leaders and exchange views with them on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Swapan New State Minister in Defense Ministry

BK121720 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Mr Sahfiqul Ghani Swapan has been appointed state minister in the Tourism and Civil Aviation Division of the Ministry of Defense. The Ministry of Defense is being looked after by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Leaves for Commonwealth Summit

BK131105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpt] President J.R. Jayewardene left in the early hours of this morning for the Bahamas to attend the Commonwealth heads of government meeting. He is accompanied by Mrs Jayewardene: the secretary to the president, W.M.P.B. Manikwiela; and private secretary Nihal Weerasinghe.

Meanwhile, Minister Athulathmudali was sworn in this morning before the prime minister as acting minister of defense and rehabilitation.

Ceasefire Monitoring Committee May Start Next Week

HK110903 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Colombo, Oct 11 (AFP) — The committee monitoring the ceasefire between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil Separatist Groups may begin work early next week, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said here today.

Mr Athulathmudali also confirmed that the multi-racial committee would be expanded from three members to 11.

He said that the new members would include nominees of the five major militant Tamil separatist groups.

The names of the nominees were conveyed to Colombo by the Indian Government, which is playing an active role in bringing the two sides together, he said.

Yesterday the major militant groups, in New Delhi for talks with Indian officials, agreed to accept the second ceasefire unilaterally declared by Colombo.

Sources said that the Tamils had agreed to the ceasefire after the Sri Lanka Government had conceded certain Tamil demands, sources said.

Among the demands, they added, were that the monitoring committee should make its findings public and that it should have access to prisons and camps where Tamils were detained.

Mr Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that six new names had already been added to the original three named to sit on the monitoring committee and that two more were being considered.

He said that included in the new nominees were "some" from the list of names submitted by the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), but he would not disclose how many.

However, informed sources here said that Karthigesu Sivathamby and K. Sivapalan, Presidents of the Citizens' Committees of Jaffna and Trincomalee in the northern and eastern provinces, were among the ENLF nominees.

The sources said that it was possible that at least one more from the militants' list would be included in the expanded committee.

Mr Athulathmudali said that letters would be sent almost immediately to those already named inviting them to join the monitoring panel.

He added that it would then only need their agreement and the committee would begin work early next week.

Observers said that Colombo made certain concessions to the Tamil separatists over the monitoring committee to allow the two sides to study a working paper which is seen as a negotiating basis for a settlement of the ethnic issue.

They said that Colombo wanted to get preliminaries such as the ceasefire out of the way before the meeting between President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during the Commonwealth summit in the Bahamas later this month.

Sources here expect the two leaders to then decide on a third round of peace talks between the Colombo government and the six Tamil groups which will probably be held in New Delhi.

Observers said Colombo believed that some militants were trying to stall discussions on the proposals by quarrelling over the monitoring committee and that is why it yielded to the demands.

First Day of Cease-Fire 'Comparatively' Quiet

BK121317 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Yesterday, the 1st day after the acceptance of the cessation of hostilities by the terrorists, was a comparatively quiet one. A few robberies were reported, and a man, who tried to escape when ordered to halt by the security forces, was wounded. Security sources told LANKAPUWATH that (Rasaiya Rajendra Kumar), who was driving a van in Jaffna, was [words indistinct] ordered to halt. However, he had tried to escape and security forces had opened fire, injuring the man. He was admitted to the general hospital, Jaffna.

The robberies included one at Jaffna where the terrorists had stolen motor spares and tools and a cassette recorder. The goods have been valued at 19,500 rupees. Another robbery was reported at Batticaloa where a car and generator were stolen from a resident at (Vavari). The terrorists had also raided the municipal office at Batticaloa. They had escaped by a boat when the police arrived at the scene.

Army Convoy Attacked; 2 Dead

HK130734 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 13 (AFP) — Two Tamil militants have died and a soldier was wounded in the first incidents since major Tamil separatist groups agreed to a second ceasefire with Sri Lankan Government forces Thursday, security sources said today.

Two separatists used grenades to attack an army convoy in northwestern Murunkan yesterday, the sources said. The soldiers fired back, killing one attacker instantly and wounding the other.

The wounded attacker committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule, the sources said. The man killed in the shooting had a cyanide capsule tied around his neck, they said. One soldier wasslightly wounded, the sources added.

It was not clear which separtist group was responsible for the attack.

More Incidents Reported

HK140734 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 14 (AFP) — Two militant Tamil separatists have been killed and three soldiers wounded in further violence after major Tamil separatist groups accepted a new ceasefire with the government last week, security sources said today.

Two separatists were killed yesterday when an army patrol ran into a militant hideout between Vavuniya and Mankulam in the Northern Province, the sources said.

The soldiers opened fire on the militants, killing two, while others fled into the jungle, they added. The troops recovered home-made bombs, arms and ammunition.

Earlier yesterday, three soldiers were wounded when an army patrol jeep ran into a separatist landmine near Mullaitivu, also in the Northern Province, the National Security Ministry said.

The two incidents reported today brought to four the number of separatist attacks on security forces since the main Tamil separatist groups accepted a second ceasefire with the Sri Lankan Government Thursday during talks with Indian officials in New Delhi.

Commentary on Forced Landing of Egyptian Plane

Velayati: Act of U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD141748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati made a speech this afternoon at a gathering of Islamic ambassadors and charge d'affaires in which he addressed the recent air raid on the PLO base in Tunis by the regime occupying Palestine. Foreign Minister Velayati said that the attack by Israeli fighters, with America's direct help, on a country about 4000 KM away and the killing of innocent people while the UN General Assembly was in session shows the depth of the indifference by the Zionist regime and its American protectors toward world public opinion, the opinion of peace-loving nations, and international laws and regulations.

The continuation of acts of aggression by that regime are insults to the international community. There is no guarantee that the Zionist regime will not commit aggression against another country, true to its nature. We believe that if aggression is not countered, the aggressor will become more audacious and step-up his aggressions.

He then said that the Muslim and Arab countries in the region which are subjected to direct acts of aggression by the regime occupying Jerusalem, should recall past experience and realize that they cannot communicate with that regime except by force and weapons based on faith.

By believing these facts, the Islamic Republic of Iran has done its best in the struggle against the Zionist regime and its principal protector, U.S. imperialism, in every aspect. Our slogan has always been that this cancerous tumour should be uprooted from the region through collective effort.

He added that America, which placed all its facilities at the disposal of the Zionist regime to attack the Palestinians under the pretext of fighting terrorism, in contravention of all international regulations, a few days later hijacked an Egyptian National Airlines plane. U.S. fighter planes forced the pilot to alter his course and land the plane at a U.S. base in Sicily. Thus a country which is supposed to be the standard-bearer in the fight against government terrorism exhibits the most blatant and disgraceful form of government terrorism.

We draw the attention of the Palestinian resistance movement to the fact that they should learn from the experience of past bitter defeats, and reevaluate their modus operandi. They should create a turning point in the history of the Palestinian revolution.

He finally pointed out that while the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to any act of terrorism which might endanger the lives of innocent people, it declares that what America and Israel call terrorism is the struggle of nations and movements for freedom, a struggle that is their lawful right in accordance with international laws and laws and regulations and approvals by international communities.

Tunisia, Egypt Condemned

LD121207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Station commentary: "The Blatant Air Piracy of the United States of America"]

[Text] The hijacking of the Egyptian airliner flying the four Palestinian commandos by the U.S. fighter planes has had extensive repercussions. While the U.S. radio and television networks have waged propaganda to excite the people of the United States in support of this hijacking, other countries and societies of the world have condemned this move as a dangerous action by a superpower in violation of international regulations. The present propaganda ploy of the U.S. Government for winning its citizens' public support demonstrates many facts. For instance, Reagan is repeatedly congratulated in the propaganda of the American radio and television networks and even in their press and the air piracy is regarded as the first step in crushing the so-called acts of terrorism. This is taking place while the U.S. propagandists make no mention of the nature of or the method for this deed by the U.S. Government.

The overall propaganda activities of the United States of America show that the U.S. Government is facing countless problems vis-a-vis the Islamic and antiarrogant movement of the Middle East region and is trying to deceive the country's public opinion about the truth in the region. By resorting to full terrorism, the U.S. Government is trying to cover up its defeats. Despite these efforts, however, the recent incident will be recorded as an act of full terrorism by the United States of America. The nature of these events is exposed by the cooperation of several Arab countries on this matter. The fact that the recent plane hijacking by the U.S. Government took place 2 weeks after the bombing of Tunisian territory, one cannot ignore the role played by Tunisia and Egypt in their cooperation with America's recent hijacking adventure.

The Egyptian Government was guarantor of the safety of four to seven Palestinians in return for their surrendering and abandoning of the Italian ship. After the surrender of the Palestinians, however, the Egyptian Government implemented its organized plot and flew them to Tunisia in an Egyptian airliner. According to Caspar Weinberger's confessions, when the Egyptian plane was surrounded in the sky by the U.S. fighters, it requested permission to land in Tunisian territory, but the Government of Tunisia refused permission. We come to the conclusion that, in the course of a calculated conspiracy, the Governments of Egypt and Tunisia prepared the ground for the U.S. hijackers to force the airliner to land where they had planned.

Following the plane's landing in an Italian airport, the Italian Government has so far refused to hand over to the U.S. Government the Palestinians who abducted the Italian ship near the Egyptian coast. The Italian Government intends to try these individuals in accordance with Italian laws.

The recent air piracy of the United States of America in the region, once again demonstrates the serious danger posed by this superpower against nations of the region and their security. On the other hand, the participation of the Arab reactionary regimes

in these arrogant and Zionist plots against the nations of the region, once again proves the need for destruction or total boycott of these regimes. The regimes of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Iraq are not serving the interests of the Islamic ummah and nations of the region and, if they were to become stronger politically, they would intensify their Zionist and American threats against the interests of the ummah of Islam. Some PLO factions, led by 'Arafat, which are following the policies of the said regimes, are today cornered in a position where they can do nothing but approve these threats and terrorist acts of the United States of America and Israel. They have lost their independence and initiatives. This is the miserable and doomed fate of those factions and regimes that are defending the so-called peace in the region and are in reality paving the way for such terrorist acts of the United States of America.

Egypt, 'Arafat Agreed With U.S.

GF121934 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] This is not the first time the leaders of capitulation have violated human values and ideals. This is not the last time the "slogan revolutionaries" have trampled on the principles of the Palestinian revolution. This is not the only time the clients of the United States have offered the heads of Palestinians as scapegoats to further their political ambitions and evil whims.

The hijacking of the civilian Egyptian plane carrying four Palestinians by four U.S. F-14 fighter planes has exposed the bleak faces hiding behind the slogan of retrieving Palestinian rights and exposed the avaricious creatures pursuing their Palestinian prey on land, in the sea, or in the air.

THE NEW YORK TIMES has exposed grave secrets about the act of piracy perpetrated by the United States in the Mediterranean skies. The action took place at the instigation of Husni Mubarak and with 'Arafat's approval. The paper says that Mubarak gave 'Arafat 48 hours to find asylum for the four Palestinians. If he was unable to do so, then the Egyptian regime would hand them over to the authorities. It appears that 'Arafat agreed to the latter proposal when the Tunisian Government refused the Egyptian plane permission to land.

The incident reveals the nature of the devious policy carried out by the United States and its allies. Egypt hastened to detain the Italian ship and to denounce the action of the U.S. aircraft, although such steps were made at Egypt's request and with its approval. In Washington, The Reagan Administration asked the Italian government to hand over the four Palestinians to the U.S. authorities to put them on trial — although the United States could have transported the four Palestinians to Washington without passing through Sicily. However, it appears that Washington does not want to become fully embroiled in this issue because such embroilment would be too costly for it. Hence, the U.S. scenario, whereby several parties take part to minimize reactions against the United States. The scenario is as follows: First, the Tunisian Government announces that it will not permit the Egyptian plane to land. Immediately after, 'Arafat agrees to hand over the four Palestinians to the Italian Government, then Mubarak asks the U.S. 6th Fleet to force the plane to land and take the four Palestinians to Italy. The last act of the drama will take place in Italy where the Palestinians will be put on trial and charged with hijacking and murder.

The implementation of the various stages of the drama have been executed with precision. Each of the five parties carried out its assigned role in the scenario. The participation of several parties does not exonerate the United States of the principal and direct responsibility for the act of piracy designed — according to the U.S. President — to punish terrorists. Reagan forgot that by such action, he has carried out the ugliest form of terrorism known to the world. Washington has carried out a crime unprecedented in the history of international terrorism. It must now await the speedy and just response to realize that what the oppressed peoples do is not terrorism but the response to terrorism.

Majlis Committee Statement on Egyptian Demonstrations

GF140806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Following yesterday's demonstrations by Egyptian students against the United States and the Egyptian regime, the Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Majlis issued a statement saying that such actions were an important factor in the Islamic nation's objections to Zionist attacks and rule by mercenaries like Mubarak. Part of the statement assured the backing of the Islamic nation for the anti-Zionist front in the Islamic world and the action of the Egyptian students, saying that such objections should act as a warning to regimes like the organization and leaders of the PLO who, oblivious to aspirations of the Islamic nation, by their actions are inadvertantly helping the superpower cause.

The statement also condemned efforts of countries, which by having relations with the regime in Cairo, are weakening the anti-Camp David front.

Radio Hails Shooting of Israelis in Egypt

LD111440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Review of foreign radios]

[Excerpts] in the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At the beginning of the past week, a Muslim Revolutionary Egyptian soldier attacked a number of Zionists in the Sinai desert with his machinegun and, in addition to killing a number of them, he also killed his own commanding officer. Foreign radios, without showing the slightest interest in an analytical discussion of this event, bypassed the issue by merely referring to the messages which had been exchanged between the leaders of the Zionist regime and the reactionary Egyptian regime. The Egyptian regime also tried to devalue and distort the true nature of this great event by claiming that the attacker had gone berserk.

Although the Egyptian regime tried in this way to hide many facts which are now secretly emerging within Egyptian society

and especially within the military forces of that country, Mubarak's desperate reaction following this event and his wide-of-the-mark allegations concerning the attacking soldier further revealed the importance of this event.

The Zionist regime, which is well aware of the true nature of this event, has been greatly angered by it, has taken it seriously, and has asked the Egyptian regime for an explanation about the fact that other Muslim Egyptian soldiers showed a feeling of sympathy toward the attacking soldier and deliberately delayed in the removal of the dead and injured.

In the Zionist parliament the issue was taken more seriously and the question was raised whether a struggle similar to that which took place in Lebanon is underway in other countries adjacent to occupied Palestine and even inside the occupied territory. Despite all these secret concerns, through their silence or by alleging that the self-sacrificing Egyptian soldier had gone berserk, foreign radios have tried to undermine the importance of that event and to assist the reactionary, Zionist Egyptian regime in distorting its true nature. Despite all these attempts, the attack by an Egyptian policeman [as heard] on a group of Zionists had major repercussions in public opinion and was analyzed from different angles.

The first point is that this event took place on the anniversary of the revolutionary execution of al-Sadat, which indicates that the Muslim Egyptian people, especially the armed forces of that country, have not yet given up their struggle against the Zionists; and, despite the support of the regime of that country for the Camp David agreement, the people are determined to blot out that stain of shame.

The second message associated with this revolutionary act is the announcement that despite Mubarak's regime, the Egyptian Armed Forces are determined to continue the path of the martyrs of the four great wars of the Egyptian Armed Forces against the Zionist regime, especially as the recent attack also coincides with the 12th anniversary of the fourth war between the Arabs and the Zionist regime.

Therefore, despite the claims of Mubarak's regime, not only was the revolutionary action of that Egyptian policeman not due to madness, on the contrary, it was carried out with full consciousness and carries with it a very important and significant message, a message which was given an international dimension when the martyred Captain Khalid Islambuli and his heroic friends carried out the revolutionary execution of al-Sadat with the fiery bullets of their machine-guns 4 years ago.

By following the policies of the destroyed al-Sadat, Mubarak has also become the object of the anger and hatred of the Muslim Egyptian people. He is also continuing al-Sadat's policies and is fighting against Muslim revolutionaries. The mosques, the students of Al-Azhar University, and Islamic groups are the most important enemies of his regime, and he has not refrained from any action in suppressing them. Mubarak's hostility toward Islamic values and the arrest of Muslim youths are some of the policies of his regime.

Although the American Government is trying to prop up Mubarak's regime with economic and military support, the reports received from Egypt reveal the extension of the scope of the struggles of Muslim youths against that regime and an increase in the wave of their attacks against the Zionists. A series of attacks against Zionist centers in Egypt, as well as last week's event which took place on the anniversary of the revolutionary execution of al-Sadat, demonstrate the fact that the Muslim Egyptian people have never accepted the disgrace of the Camp David accord and are ashamed of the raising of the Israeli flag in that Islamic land.

In view of the prevailing situation in Egypt, Washington and Tel Aviv should realize that the compromise of some regimes or of some individuals with the Zionist entity does not mean the end of the war in the Middle East and does not bring peace to the Zionist regime; and so long as the last Zionist still remains in occupied Palestine the struggle of the Islamic ummah will continue with complete decisiveness. Truly, is this not what happened in Lebanon also?

Tehran on Assassination Attempt on Iraqi President

LD131057 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Citing reliable sources in Iraq, the Central News Unit reports that last Saturday a person or persons opened fire on Saddam [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn] in Ba'qubah, killing five of his bodyguards. The same source added that the Saddam regime believes that the attempt was made by agents who had infiltrated the security organization in Ba'qubah, and that during the past week a number of members of the Ba'qubah security organization have been arrested.

Khamene'i, IRGC Minister, Officials Meet 14 Oct

LD142134 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA — Iran's minister of Islamic revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rafiqdust, accompanied by the commander and deputy commander of IRGC, Mohsen Reza'i and 'Ali Sham'khani met President 'Ali Khamene'i here, Monday.

Discussed in the meeting were IRGC's affairs as well as recommendations by the officials for the improvement of the IRGC operation on which the president gave his advisory opinion.

Majlis Expected to Approve Musavi's Reappointment

LD121653 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — The Majlis (parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Iran starts deliberations on Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who has been nominated to take office for a second term, reported daily *ETTELA'AT* Saturday.

Musavi who enjoys the backing of Imam Khomeyni the leader of the Islamic revolution is expected to win with a majority vote but Tehran dailies said deliberations on cabinet members is expected to last two weeks.

Several weeks of Majlis discussions on Musavi ended Thursday when President 'Ali Khamene'i nominated him in a note addressed to the speaker of the assembly.

Khamene'i had earlier told the assembly that he would be bale to shoulder his responsibilities "with the help of those elements which the constitution calls for to assist the president".

The constitution calls on the president to nominate the prime minister and approve cabinet members before the Majlis votes on them.

After the nomination, Deputy Speaker Mohammad Yazdi said the assembly would decide Sunday on holding a closed-door session to discuss the nomination before voting.

Tehran dailies Saturday gave extensive coverage to the development with Farsi language *KEYHAN* calling on the prime minister to elect an "organized cabinet" to deal with the current problems.

In a page two editorial *KEYHAN* said experience has shown throughout the post-revolutionary period that a "coalition government would fail to decrease the weight of existing problems".

KEYHAN said a "cabinet coordinated in policy and following the political line of Imam Khomeyni and (the distinguished theologian Hoseyn 'Ali) Montazeri would be the only solution".

Second Musavi Term Approved

LD130707 Tehran IRNA in English 0654 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, oct. 13 IRNA — Iran's Majlis gave a vote of confidence to Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Sunday to take office for a second term. The voting was 162 for, 73 against with 26 abstentions.

The deputies shouted "Allah-Akbar" (God is the greatest) three times in the traditional sign of approval as the results were announced in between speeches on bills.

According to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, the prime minister is responsible before the Majlis for the actions of his Cabinet.

The prime minister must also elect the Cabinet and introduce them to the Majlis after having them approved by the president.

Constitution's Article 135 states that the prime minister shall be in power as long as there is not a lack of confidence in him by the Majlis.

Musavi was nominated to take office for a second term by President 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday after Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, advised against a change of government.

Majlis deputies had been debating the issue with supporters of Musavi stating that a change would harm current developments while others criticising [as received] the growth of the public sector in economy.

Musavi has voiced support for an economic program to help the lower class and an active anti-imperialist foreign policy.

Tehran dailies recently quoted informed sources as saying that wide-ranging talks are underway between senior officials of the Islamic Republic for the appointment of the future Cabinet.

Discussions on the individual Cabinet members are expected to last for two weeks.

Tehran's English morning daily *KEYHAN* said Sunday that the Cabinet will face many important issues, the most outstanding ones being the war and the imperialist drive to create financial hardship.

The daily said that in domestic affairs the government will have to solve the issues of land reform, housing, economic development, and the growth of government agencies among other things.

Radio Comments on Official's Responsibility

GF130658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0441 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Revolution and New Officials"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following the introduction of Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi in the open session of Majlis by the president last Thursday, the representatives of Majlis will today vote on his appointment to the sensitive post of prime minister. After being sworn in as president in a ceremony on Thursday, in the presence of the members of the Council of Guardians and the Supreme judicial Council and Majlis representatives, Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Khamene'i, noting the articles of the Constitution, addressed a letter to the Majlis speaker nominating Mr Musavi for another term as prime minister. According to Article 124 of the Constitution, the president nominates an individual, then issues an order appointing him prime minister after obtaining a vote of confidence from majlis. Should Mr Musavi obtain the majority vote in today's session — according to the law, the majority is half of the representatives plus one — his next duty would be to introduce each Cabinet member to the Majlis after the approval of the president. Thus the formation of a new government will start a new phase, with God's guidance, in the struggle and efforts to achieve the mighty and revolutionary goals of the system of the Islamic republic.

At the start of this phase of the revolution, which, thanks to the Lord's blessings and the awarenss and efforts of people and their representatives, will start the flow of new blood in the veins of the revolution, it falls to the mass media to perform their duties in a moral and healthy manner, giving due attention to their vital duty by reflecting various viewpoints, ideas, and the people's criticism to help the high-ranking decisionmakers carry out this fundamental development. Fortunately, following the fruitful

remarks of his holiness the imam and the crusading jurisprudent Grand Ayatollah Montazeri concerning the duties of the mass media, it has become possible to reflect some issues, problems, and views of the people to some extent across the society. The reflection of such views has not only noticeably increased involvement of the masses in the scene and their desire to follow national issues and events, but it has also resulted in administrative and judicial officials, particularly representatives of the people, becoming even more aware of the popular views on which they base their decisions.

The success of the Islamic Revolution in battling the continuing problems and difficulties which began following the victory of the revolution over the world of oppression against our people is fundamentally due to the ceaseless and glorious presence of our Muslim ummah in the scene of political, military, and economic struggle. It is clear that without this presence, the terrific waves of the problems could destroy the basis of the revolution, its being, and its valuable achievements.

Therefore, as the presence of the people on the scene has been the guarantor of the victories and achievements of the revolution, the same presence will determine the defeats or victories of the revolution in the future, thus creating destiny. That which is relevant to our subject is how to continue such a presence on the scene. It is true that since people stepped on the trail of this holy revolution, they have not contemplated benefits or losses. Having relied on their beliefs, they have continuously considered themselves in debt to the revolution. However, such love and sacrifice does not mean that officials and those involved in affairs should consider the many complicated problems that burden the population as minor, consciously or otherwise, either due to their ordinary nature or a lack of planning and, God forbid, disregard them. Many representatives of the people in the Majlis and other sensitive national posts, based on their responsibilities, have noted that some of the major current problems have put pressure, not only on the people, but also on the identity of the revolution over the past few days just prior to formation of the Cabinet. Fortunately, meanwhile the press has also noted some of the shortcomings through articles based on critical views. Talking about problems is (?no longer new). Thus it seems that new remarks should be designed to introduce solutions and collect ideas which solve such problems. The responsibility is mainly that of the administrative system, the judiciary, and the lawmakers, who, through their immense thoughts and by the extent of their attributes, have assumed or will assume these responsiblities. Their task is to start solving problems through plans and projects, supervision and control. Fortunately, many of the present officials of the country, having gone through 7 years of efforts and work at different posts, have gained valuable experience. The issue of who, when, and how a problem can be solved is a point that, considering the experience and past deeds of officials and their responsibilities, is becoming clearer.

A shortcoming or a mistake in an issue could be ignored at some point, such as at the start of the revolution, due to the inexperience of the official concerned. This cannot be explained away at other points after time has passed and abilities and weaknesses have become clear. Considering such principles, which are clear to everyone, eyes are now fixed on the Islamic Majlis to see how the representatives of the people will go about selecting the most important officials of the country at the ministerial level, given their experience and the ups and downs of the past 7 years which stem from their direct involvement with affairs and their mechanics. Such posts can create negative or positive results at a large level depending on whether they are successful or not. It is very obvious that the respected president and the head of the Cabinet are facing many problems seeking worthy faces who relatively satisfy all the known requirements. It is also obvious that they started immense efforts months ago to carry out this important duty. In any case, the duty of the Majlis as the special essense of our Muslim masses is much heavier than being satisfied with hearsay. The necessary ingredient for an active effort by the respective representatives of the people is for them to achieve a direct evaluation of each proposed individual based on their valuable experience and knowledge in various fields. When the appointment of an official as a minister can create extensive developments in his field of responsibility, and to some extent in the entire political and economic affairs of the country due to the newness of the system, any opinion, acceptance, or rejection requires detailed examination and evaluation. Naturally, this brings responsibility far heavier than in the past.

Tehran Daily on New Ministerial Appointments

LD150545 Tehran IRNA in English 0517 GMT 15 Oct 85

[From the "Media Review"]

[Text] Tehran, Oct 15, IRNA — Tehran's English morning daily *KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL* said in its editorial Tuesday that according to latest information it had received from "authoritative sources" the Ministries of Defense, Road and Transport, and Budget and Planning will have new ministers.

KEYHAN said according to the information it had got a list composing the names of a dozen of new ministers had been prepared as of late afternoon Monday. The paper said that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri "were at the top of the new list in keeping with their present portfolios."

Among the newcomers, according to *KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL*, the prime minister has nominated two men for two of the key ministries. It did not elaborate but said Musavi will try to convince the president as well as the Majlis (parliament) on the "managing capacity and ministrial qualifications" of the incoming ministers. The remaining nominees, the paper said, are expected to be chosen by the end of this week.

Besharati Concludes Gulf Tour, Returns to Tehran

LD130616 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA — Iran's Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati concluded his tour of three Persian Gulf states and returned here Saturday night.

During his visit to the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, Besharati handed over messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i to the heads of these states.

Meanwhile, Besharati who headed a delegation, met and conferred with the U.A.E. Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum in Dubayy Saturday.

Referring to the firm relations between Iran and the Emirates, Besharati said Iran is only fighting the Iraqi regime and powerfully resists against any Iraqi plot to extend the war throughout the region. He added that the Islamic Republic would stop any ship carrying cargo to aid Iraq's war effort.

The acting minister noted that the U.S. response over the Zionist attack on PLO Headquarters in Tunis indicated that she backed the continuation of the tension in the region.

Shaykh Muhammad said the friendly relations between the two countries has always been firm and added that since Iran and Emirates are located in a strategic area they must strengthen their ties.

He pointed out that Emirates is sure that the Islamic Republic is not going to spread the war and as a big country Iran is willing to play a more valuable role in protecting stability and security.

Press Conference

LD131716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Mr Besharati, the deputy foreign minister, at the end of his trip to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf took part in a press conference and elaborated on the outcome of his trip to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Qatar, and Bahrain. He said: We would like to expand and strengthen our relations with the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain, but we emphasize that we will close the Straits of Hormuz to the ships carrying goods and arms which would increase the combat capability of the Iraqi regime, and we will continue to do so with all our might.

He added: During this trip, I also conveyed the verbal message of President Khamene'i to the officials of the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain, and I stressed that if the crimes committed by the Iraqi regime in attacking Khark Island result in a total stoppage of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil exports, countries that have directly helped the Iraqi regime to start and continue the war will not be allowed to carry their oil exports through the Straits of Hormuz with ease. The deputy foreign minister then referred to the volume of Iran's trade exchange with the UAE, to the tune of one billion dollars, and, while stressing the pleasure and satisfaction of the neighboring countries in expanding and fortifying their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: In the region, we are only involved in a war against Iraq and no other country. If countries that have somehow helped the Iraqi regime now regret their actions and if their sincerity is proved to us, we will generally reconsider our relations with them.

IRNA Summarizes Trip

LD140948 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA — Iran's acting foreign minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati returned Sunday from a tour of three Persian Gulf states where he clarified Iran's war policy amid reports of the escalation of tension in the Persian Gulf.

Besharati also handed over messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i to the heads of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

Reports said the Iranian envoy had given assurances to the Persian Gulf states that, contrary to Iraqi policy, the Islamic Republic is not seeking to expand the war in the Persian Gulf region.

But Besharati also warned that Iran would continue its inspection of cargo ships suspicious of carrying military hardware to beef up the Iraqi war machine.

Iran has been following an inspection policy in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman by intercepting ships carrying goods destined for Iraq. But it has also given assurances that ships heading for neutral countries would not be inspected.

As Besharati was on tour, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran staged it biggest-ever war meneuver on the shores and islands of the Persian gulf in which scores of warships and warplanes participated.

The Islamic Republic has warned it would close the vital Strait of Hormuz to oil tankers if its own oil exports were crippled by foreign aggression.

Besharati met senior Muslim officials and voiced Iran's intention to improve relations with its southern Arab neighbours if "they realized their mistake in helping the Iraqi regime". Besharati said upon his return that relations with its southern neighbours based on "Islamic Principles, good neighbourly relations as well as common interests" according to Besharati.

Reports indicated that Iran's acting minister was welcomed in the three states with calls for "friendly relations" and "strengthening of ties"

Central Bank Governor Meets IMF Director in Seoul

LD112334 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 11, IRNA — In his meeting with the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Jacques de la Rosiere de Champfeu in Seoul this week, Governor of the Bank Markazi (central bank) of Iran Mohseen Nourbaksh called on him to help the Islamic Government redeem the more than three billion dollars owed it by European, Asian and African countries. He also said that the Islamic Republic looks forward to playing a more active role in the IMF.

Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) recently approved a bill anticipating some 10 to 12 million dollars increase in the country's share at the IMF.

The Iranian official in Seoul for a four-day conference of the IMF member countries, said at his address to the conference on Wednesday that as a result of recasting economic planning

systems and banking laws according to the principles of Islam, the Islamic government is successfully coping with a war-time situation without any extraordinary pressure on the masses.

He has also said that in the judgement of the Islamic Government Islamic laws for banking and statecraft are based on justice and equality and tailored to the needs of the people in any society.

Nourbaksh has also called on the IMF to conduct studies on the interest-free banking system as prescribed by Sharia laws of Islam. He said the IMF has failed to achieve its initial objectives in helping the more needy countries.

The aggregate of the foreign debts of the developing nations now stands at more than 950 billion dollars, while the majority of them have hard time even trying to pay interests on their loans. The combined foreign debts of the developing nations are expected to soar up to about one trillion dollars by the end of the current year.

Minister Assesses Session

LD121400 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — The Iranian minister of economics and finance, Hoseyn Namazi, who headed the Iranian delegation to the four-day joint annual meeting of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, in Seoul, South Korea, returned to Tehran early Saturday morning.

The fourthieth joint session of MIF and the World bank concluded work Friday.

Speaking about outcome of the conference, Namazi said that the Iranian delegation during the session analysing the world economic situation said that current economic trend made poor countries poorer and the rich richer. It further pointed out that international monetary and financial organisations were not taking steps towards improving world economic situation. Therefore, it was stressed, the current economic order had to be changed.

Namazi further added that the Iranian delegation which also included the governor of Bank Markazi (Central Bank), Mohsen Nurbakhsh, made proposals for betterment of world financial situation and stated that Islamic financial principles, would provide a solution for world poverty and problems of poor countries.

Another issue raised by the Iranian delegation, he added, was that of some 4 billion dollars overdue debts of France, Egypt, Sudan, and the Zionist regime, to Iran. The governor of Bank Markazi urged the IMF head to take measures in this respect.

Deputy Minister Leads Delegation to Hungary

LD131012 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 12 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — Iranian Deputy industries minister in charge of pharmaceutics and food Hoseyni left for Hungary heading a delegation, Saturday, at the invitation of Hungarian deputy minister of industries.

The delegation was seen off at Tehran Mehrabad Airport by diplomats from the Hungarian embassy here.

Minister Asks UNESCO For Action Against Hostile Media

LD112325 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA — Iran's minister of Culture and Higher Education Dr. Iraj Fazel has called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to formulate better safeguards for curbing production and deployment of chemical weapons and imposing more workable sanctions against governments disregarding the ban on such weapons.

In his address to the 23rd general conference of the organization in Sofia this week the Iranian official also proposed that the third world nations devise a coordinated mass media system to counterbalance the propaganda machinery of the big powers and their print and broadcast media which are used against the Third World nations. He said the Islamic government has already taken significant steps to this end.

The Iranian cultural official has also warned the UNESCO meeting that despite the original goals of the organization, as a result of inroads and encroachments by "greedy colonialists" the masses in many countries suffer poverty, homelessness, or are embroiled with various social afflictions such as prostitution and racial dsicrimination.

Dr. Fazel has also called on the organization to condemn the Baghdad regime for its deployment of lethal and chemical weapons and for its bombardment of historical buildings and cultural and educational quarters in Iran.

Radio Cites Majlis Speaker on War, Hormuz Straits

LD141259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Excerpts] A short time after the comments made by the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council in connection with preparing and sending youths and trained personnel through the Basij and Revolution Guards Corps centers to the fronts, reports indicate that up to now large groups from all over the country have responded to the proposal made by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and while stressing the need to continue the war until the final victory, they have announced their readiness to take part in any operation. The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, elaborating on his proposal, addressed the combatants and battle-ready youths all over the country and said: The conditions of the region and the war tell us to be more alert than before. The possibility of the United States or some other power interfering is as remote as the possibility of the Straits of Hormuz being closed down -- since this possibility would only arise if the Straits of Hormuz were closed down. Even if we do close down this waterway, the issue takes on another dimension and then they would not dare enter the arena and directly confront us. But, in any event, there is the possibility of such an action. Therefore, I call on those youths who are capable

of carrying arms, who have been trained, and who are prepared to go to Basij centres to get ready. I ask the Basij, the Guards Corps, and the military and police ofrces to equip them as soon as possible so that in the event of this possible action in the Persian Gulf we will be able to put an end to the war as well. In that case we will not stop at our victory in the Persian Gulf. What is happening in the Persian Gulf at present has its roots in a calculated and deep move and is a part of a planned, all round conspiracy by the oppressors. Once we grasp the depth of the conspiracy, we realize that our planning and action should in return be fundamental and precise so that in view of the available facilities we would be able to take advantage of the opportunities which present themselves in order to deal blows on the enemy and its agents. What is clear is that the United States, within the framework of its domineering strategy, is persistantly trying to aggrevate the tense climate of the Persian Gulf region and reap the results.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's speech at his meeting with the foreign ministers of the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf was another endorsement of the same policy. At his meeting he emphasized that if these countries extend an open invitation, the United States would be prepared to embark on a military intervention in the Persian Gulf. Although, according to the speaker of the Islamic Majlis the possibility of such a direct action by the United states in the Persian Gulf is remote and they would not dare to enter into a direct confrontation in view of the various dimensions of the issue, nevertheless the leaders of the United States have in practice proved to be stupid enough to embark on such actions. Obviously, regardless of the remoteness of the possibility, the Muslim Nation of Iran should prepare itself for confrontation and take advantage of the right moment to deal its blows. There is no doubt that all actions and policies of Saddam's regime and its Western and Eastern supporters in the region, including the methods used to provide help and backing by the [word indistinct] powers, are the first obstacles created on the path to the liberation of Jerusalem. All the measures used in the region, specially in the Persian Gulf, aim at creating a diversion from this main issue and making the battle on the war fronts a minor league.

We can deal our main blows on the Iraqi regime on the battle fronts. The limited chain of operations carried out all along the war fronts from north to south have made the Iraqi regime despondent and very worried. Obviously, one of the reasons behind taking the war to the Persian Gulf and trying to spread it has been to cover these defeats and to divert the emphasis and attention of the Islamic Republic from the war fronts and attention of the Islamic Republic from the war fronts to other issues and places. Therefore, in order to fight against the measures taken by the Iraqi regime and its policy makers behind the curtain, as we have mentioned before, economic and military plans to meet probable crisis in the Persian Gulf should be prepared at the same time as strengthening war fronts and increasing the battle readiness and the number of forces present on the fronts for initiating the important strikes.

According to the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, in order to deal the final blow we are waiting for the right moment. What has prevented us from embarking on extended actions has been the right political opportunity which would allow us to take the right military action to end the war. In our calculations, if conspiracies in the Persian Gulf become more serious and comes to a head, it would give us the right moment to annihilate the person responsible for taking the world to the bring of such crisis and danger and for forcing the tension in the region to reach the boiling point. That is why the need for mobilizing the forces and strenghening fighting forces in the region is felt more than ever before.

World public opinion is under the impression that the war has reached a deadend and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not able to solve the problem on the war fronts. This is what the propaganda machine subservient to the oppressors has spread in the world. Therefore, at present, all eyes have turned towards the Persian Gulf and the warmongering acts of the Zionist regime of Iraq in that region, and the best opportunity for dealing the final blow to the rotten corpse of a regime ruling Iraq is forthcoming. This blow would need the overwhelming and extended presence of the popular and mobilization forces on the battle fronts so that the final blow can be dealt to the enemy where it is weakest.

Iran Addresses GCC Countries About U.S. Threat

GF120912 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Oct 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* writes in its editorial headlined "Our Gulf Move Can Foil U.S. Plots;" The blackmail the U.S. administration is practicing against Arab countries in general and GCC countries in particular is aimed primarily at granting the Pentagon more U.S. bases and at placing obstacles before the establishment of normal relations between the GCC countries and the Islamic Republic. This is so it can implement its new policy in Ronald Reagan's second term based on militarizing foreign policy, implementing military solutions, and entering into armed conflict with the Islamic revolution after the Reagan administration drew up special programs to justify its military intervention in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. military sources have revealed that secret military groups have been set up. These groups are commanded by the CENTCOM, known previously as the Rapid Deployment Force. They are assigned to carry out commando operations and will be used to carry out a preemptive strike against countries which back terrorism, to quote Washington.

To face this serious policy, the Islamic Republic has decided to put the GCC leaders in front of their historical responsibilities by not kneeling to the U.S. blackmail of calling for relinquishing dignity and land. Yes, on this basis, President 'Ali Khamene'i decided to send an envoy to some leaders of the Persian Gulf countries; Dr Velayati also met with the Saudi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers to explain the seriousness of the U.S plot. We believe that the Islamic Republic, the steadfast garrison against U.S. domination, is able to thwart the U.S. move and foil all plots and designs hatched against the rgeion's security. We also believe that our masses, who won victory through the gun, are ready to sacrifice their lives to inflict the heaviest losses on the aggressors. The peoples' will is inexorable, regardless of the magnitude of the

destructive weapons used against them.

Release of Detained Sri Lankan Ship Reported

LD141106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] According to a report by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA), a Sri Lankan ship which had been intercepted and taken to one of the southern ports in order to inspect its consignment, was released.

The report adds: In line with the Islamic Republic's policy of preventing the import of goods which might consolidate Iraq's combat capability, the Islamic Republic Navy yesterday became suspicious of a Sri Lankan vessel in the Strait of Hormuz and consequently led it to Iranian waters in order to inspect its consignment. Having established that the consignment is not meant for Iraq, the vessel was later released.

IRNA Reports Conclusion of Operation Badr Maneuvers

LD121932 Tehran IRNA in English 1917 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — The 12 day "Operation Badr Maneuvers" ended here Saturday, with a batch of 5,000 basij volunteers of the "Labayk Ya Khomeyni" Brigade announcing their departure for the war fronts.

In the ceremony marking the end of the maneuvers, the IRGC commander, Mohsen Reza'i, praised the faith and valour of the Islamic combatants in the 5-year-old imposed war.

He said that just as the battle of Badr (the first battle by the prophet) was a landmark in the history of Islam, likewise the Badr operation launched by the Iranian forces was a decisive blow to the Ba'thist enemy.

Elaborating the point he said "In the Khaybar Operation our slogan was 'war war till eradication of sedition' " which is a sure proof of our progress in this war against global arrogance.

Emphasising the importance of slogans he continued, "Slogans are the foundation of a revolution, because they prevent it from being deviated by constantly reminding the people of their importance and urging action from them.

The U.S. being the arch-enemy the most strategic slogan is "Death to America" he said if we do not say this slogan it is a sign of weakness. "To eliminate 50 years of American influence from our political, economic, cultural and social life it is essential for us to repeat this slogan."

However, he proceeded, "Principal slogan is war, war, till eradication of sedition." "The world devourer with all its sophisticated technology" is always plotting against the Islamic countries therefore we are defending our revolution against American schemes, Reza'i noted.

At the end of his speech he thanked the armed forces as well as the families of martyrs and also gave a special thanks to Reconstruction Jihad and Power Ministry officials for their contribution in making these maneuvers successful. The attendance of such large numbers was a clear proof for their backing of the war, he said.

The ceremonies started with a group of paratroopers giving a colourful display in the air. They presented a spectacular sight by lighting the sky with colourful smoke resembling the Iranian flag.

At the end an exhibition of the actual Badr Operations was performed by the ground forces in coordination with helicopters displaying the tactics and strategy employed by the Islamic combatants in crossing a ditch with the help of pontoon bridges. It was a spectacular sight with the audience shouting Allaho Akbar as the Islamic forces demonstrated their capturing of the Iraqi positions.

Iraqi Planes Bombard Kurdish Villages

LD131732 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Oct. 13, IRNA — A Iraqi planes [as received] bombarded some ten Kurdish villages in Garmian, northern Iraq, over the past few days, martrying five and injuring 13 others.

The aerial attacks were in retaliation for the recent defeats of Iraqi Government troops in their fighting with rising Muslim groups in northern and northeastern of Iraq.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,255

LD111752 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA — Three Iraqi Tanks, one outpost, an ammunition depot and two vehicles were destroyed and numerous bunkers and positions of the enemy were set ablaze, in the northwestern fronts of Kalashin and Sa'id Kandi, announced the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces Friday.

In its military communique no. 2255, the Joint Staff Command further said that Iraqi troops suffered 15 casualties.

In Sardasht operational region, artillery duel was more intense in the Kani Rash, Dopaz and Beleft areas where the Islamic combatants zeroed in on the enemy's engineering units destroying three of their vehicles.

The Islamic defenders controlled all land and air activities of the enemy and prevented their aerial aggressions in these regions.

In the western fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam the Islamic combatants silenced Iraqi fire and halted their patrol activities.

In the operational regions of Qasr-e Shirin, Summar, and Haiaeh in west, the ground forces personnel repulsed Iraqi patrol activities and inflicted casualties upon them. Seven heavy weaponry bunkers and observation posts were demolished and one

munitions depot was set ablaze in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin fronts. At least two Iraqis were killed or wounded in these operations.

Exchange of fire was more intense in Chazzabe region in the southern fronts.

The Islamic combatants suppressed the activities of several vehicle units of the enemy in Chazzabe and Fakke regions and halted the operations of an Iraqi infantry company in Yebis region. The Islamic defenders also zeroed in on the enemy's command outposts in these fronts.

Abadan was barraged by the Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Thursday.

Communique No 2,256
LD121807 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — In its military communique No. 2256, the Joint Staff Command said Saturday that in the northwestern operational fronts, the Islamic combatants destroyed three tanks, three vehicles and several bunkers and observation posts as well as a munitions cache. They also killed or wounded several enemy troops on Friday.

The Islamic combatants repulsed an Iraqi helicopter in Qader operational regions and disturbed their engineering activities in the same region.

In Kani Sheykh and Sumar, in the western fronts, the Islamic combatants repelled Iraqi patrol units during the same period. They also targetted an Iraqi helicopter while landing near Qasr-e Shirin. At least 12 bunkers and munitions positions, and two vehicles of the enemy were demolished in these fronts and about 20 enemy troops were killed or wounded.

Gendarmerie forces knocked out several Iraqi bunkers across the Arvand River killing or wounding some enemy soldiers.

Abadan and Khorramshahr were barraged Friday by Iraqi long-range fire during which slight damages were inflicted upon Abadan concluded the Joint Staff Command Communique.

Communique No 2,257
LD131651 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here sunday that, exchange of fire between Iranian forces and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts, being more intense in Mehran, in the western fronts, in Sharhani, in southern fronts and in front overlooking Sar Dasht in northwestern fronts over the past 24 hours during which Iraqi troops sustained considerable casualties and losses.

Announcing this in its Communique Number 2257, the command added that Iran's Muslim fighters shelled and forced back an Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in the region overlooking Nahr 'Anbar. The Iraqi patrols sustaining casualties were forced to flee, the command added.

The communique said that during artillery duel in Bakhtaran frontlines, more than five Iraqi troops were killed and five bunkers, five observation posts and a truck of Iraqi forces were destroyed.

Iran's gendarmerie forces responded to the artillery fire of Iraqi forces across the Arvand river, killing or wounding a number of enemy troops and destroying parts of Iraqi supply routes, the communique said.

As a result of Iraq's artillery fire on the city of Abadan over the past 24 hours, four houses in the city were damaged. The communique concluded.

More on Communique No 2,257
LD141739 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14 IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Monday that Iraqi positions in western fronts came under heavy artillery fire of Iranian forces over the past 24 hours, resulting in at least 26 dead or wounded and destruction of war material including a number of bunkers and observation posts.

Announcing this in its communique number 2257 [as received], the command said that elsewhere in these fronts the artillery duel especially in Mehran continued in the same period during which Iraqi troops sustained casualties and losses.

The command added that Iran's Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi forces' artillery fire in the region of Sardasht in Kurdestan Province, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops and destroying some of the enemy bunkers and military hardware.

Artillery battle between Iranian fighters and Iraqi troops in southern fronts were more intense in Majnun Island on Sunday as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses including one munitions depot, the communique said.

The communique added that Iran's gendarmerie combatants traded artillery fire with Iraqi forces in the southern fronts over the past 24 hours, inflicting casualties and losses on the enemy.

The city of Abadan in Khuzestan province was the target of Iraq's long-range artillery fire on Sunday at which some buildings in the city were damaged, the communique concluded.

Piranshahr Shelled, 15 Dead
LD111642 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 11 Oct 85

[Text] Piranshahr, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Oct 11 IRNA — The city of Piranshahr was subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery shelling between 05:00 and 06:30 a.m. GMT Friday morning, as a result of which five people were martyred and ten others were wounded. A number of houses were also damaged in this inhuman shelling.

Iraq Continues Shelling of Abadan

GF131554 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the shelling of residential and civilian areas of the steadfast town of Abadan by the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist criminals continued during the last 24 hours.

According to this report, as a result of this action by the heretic regime of Iraq, four houses in different areas of the town were destroyed.

Mobilization Forces Depart for Battlefront

LD121524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] In continuation of the departure of popular combative and specialized forces for the battlefronts, large groups of brethren members of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps left for the fronts of the imposed war from the towns of Khomeynishahr, Miyaneh, Eqlid, Chahardangeh, Semnan, Amol, the city of Kashan and township of Kavar.

Afghan Muslims Kill Soviet, DRA Forces

LD121556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report which cites reports received from Afghanistan, an attack by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on a convoy of Soviet and Afghan Government forces near the Khakrub command headquarters, in Farah Province, resulted in 50 troops of the joint forces being killed. Five officers were among those killed. In these operations, which lasted 6 hours, 12 troops of Karmal's forces were captured by the Muslim revolutionaries. Three tanks, a fuel tanker, a vehicle, and an artillery weapon of the joint forces were destroyed, and large amounts of weaponry were taken as booty by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

Reports received from Afghanistan also state that the day after these operations, Soviet and Afghan forces shelled the villages of Shesh Aveh, Qal'eh-ye Now and (Khwash), in Farah province. There are no details of any losses and casualties inflicted on civilians.

Meanwhile, Babrak Karmal, in an interview with the English-language newspaper *THE MUSLIM*, published in Islamabad, Pakistan, stated: Direct negotiations with Pakistan are the only way to solve the problem of ending his country's 6-year war in a peaceful manner. According to REUTER, Karmal stated that Soviet forces will leave his country 6 months after an agreement in the direct talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Soviet-DRA forces, Kill 50

GF121538 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have launched an attack on Soviet occupation forces and the forces of the Karmal regime in Herat Province in western Afghanistan; they killed 50 of these forces. During the attack, 12 of the Karmal regime troops were captured by the Afghan Muslim insurgents. The revolutionaries destroyed two tanks, a fuel tanker, and a mobile gun belonging to the joint Soviet-DRA forces. They captured large quantities of equipment.

Following this operation, joint Soviet-DRA forces shelled the villages of (Shishab), (Qal'ani), and Khash in Herat Province.

96 Soviet Troops Drown in Afghan Border Action

LD141336 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 14 Oct 85

[Text] London, Oct 14, IRNA — Afghan Mujahidin pushed back Soviet troops near the northern border town of Khvajeh Ghar in Takhar Province and 96 Soviet troops drowned in Amu River while fleeing across the border, according to the London based AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY.

The Soviets had crossed Amu River by helicopters and tanks boarded on barges on Sept. 17, aiming to prevent guerrilla operations inside Soviet territory of Tajikstan by destroying mujahidin strongholds in the area.

The Soviet contingent faced the mujahidin for six hours but was forced to retreat, chased by the mujahidin up to the Amu River where they lost two boats and two tanks by rocket fire.

After losing these boats majority of the Soviet troops could not board on to other boats and fell in the river in panic and at least 96 troops were drowned.

Nine mujahids were martyred while repulsing the attack, the report added.